

C4411(3) BRAINTREE &
BOCKING

Braintree & Bocking
URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

A. P. KALRA
M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1952

TOGETHER WITH THE
Report of the
Chief Sanitary Inspector

The Shalford Press, Braintree
Phone 608

Braintree & Bocking

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A. P. KALRA, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

S. F. BAYLEY, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Foods

Additional Sanitary Inspector

J. F. LEAH, M.S.I.A.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Foods

Clerical Assistant

H. CHILDS

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

July, 1953.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In presenting this Annual Report, I am doing so on behalf of the late Dr. Kalra, and personally have little knowledge of the District during the year. I can, however, make the following observations.

Except for an outbreak of measles the number of cases of infectious disease notified has been few. No case of diphtheria occurred and the high rate of immunity against this disease has been maintained.

The housing programme has been continued and the day must be at hand when the reconstruction and demolition of the poorer types of dwelling house must become of more importance. Before any steps can be taken the families concerned must be rehoused, most probably by the Council. It is, in my opinion, of the greatest importance that, prior to their being given the tenancies of Council Houses that legal procedure should be taken to ensure that undertakings are given not to re-let, or demolition orders made on the property. These being charges entered in the Land Charges Register prevent the houses being re-let and protect intending purchasers from loss. Many of such houses being attached are with difficulty dealt with in single units and the Council might be well advised to single out certain areas for dealing with under clearance orders as suggested by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

J. S. RANSON.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,811
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	17,530
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	5,602
Rateable Value	£104,648
Sum represented by a penny rate	£415

	Braintree and Bocking U.D.C.		England and Wales	
	Total	Male	Female	
Live Births—Legitimate	237	114	123	
Illegitimate	12	5	7	
Still Births	6	3	3	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	14.2		15.3	
Birth Rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.98..	13.91			
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) ..	23.5		22.6	

Deaths (Registrar-General's estimate)	211		
Death Rate per 1,000 resident population	12.03		11.3
Death Rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.86	10.3		
Deaths of infants under one year of age	7		
Death Rate of infants under one year of age (per 1,000 live births)	28.1		27.6
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.3		
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	83.3		

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	41
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1952

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

Cause of Death					Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	3	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	6	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	—	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	9	15
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	..	..	..	—	1
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	17	16
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	19	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	1	—
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	16	15
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	2	5
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	6	1
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	2	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	3	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	....	..	..	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	20	20
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	—	1
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	1	1
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	3	1
36.	Homicide and other operations of war	..	..	..	—	—
All Causes					111	100

Death at Various Age Groups during 1952
(Registered and Transferred)

Age Group				Registered	No. of Deaths Transferred
Under 1 year	..	..	..	3	4
1 and under 2 years	..	..	..	—	1
2 and under 5 years	..	..	..	—	1
5 and under 15 years	..	..	..	—	—
15 and under 25 years	..	..	..	1	—
25 and under 35 years	..	..	..	1	1
35 and under 45 years	..	..	..	3	2
45 and under 55 years	..	..	..	12	5
55 and under 65 years	..	..	..	18	7
65 and under 75 years	..	..	..	44	14
75 and upwards	..	..	..	84	10
Totals ..				166	45

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1952.

	Total cases notified			Cases admitted to Hospital	Total dead
Scarlet Fever,	10	1	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—
Measles	129	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	—
Dysentery	3	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Intective Hepatitis	3	—	—
Totals ..			149	4	—

Tuberculosis—Cases notified during 1952.

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5 years ..	3	—	—	1
5 and under 10 years ..	—	1	—	—
10 and under 15 years ..	—	—	—	—
15 and under 20 years ..	—	1	—	—
20 and under 25 years ..	1	1	—	—
25 and under 35 years ..	4	—	—	1
35 and under 45 years ..	5	3	—	—
45 and under 55 years ..	1	2	—	—
55 and under 65 years ..	1	1	—	—
65 years and upwards ..	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	15	9	—	2

Of these cases 4 were of cases re-notified on taking up residence in this District.

Deaths from Tuberculosis

Pulmonary ..	Male ..	3
	Female ..	—
Non-pulmonary ..	Male ..	—
	Female ..	1
Total ..		4

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

July, 1953.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, my report on the sanitary circumstances and sanitary inspection of the Urban District for the year 1952.

The number of inspections together with improvements in sanitary conditions was on a similar scale to that of 1951, and with the exception of housing repairs and conditions it can be said that the sanitary circumstances of the district have been maintained throughout the year.

The repair of houses under the provisions of sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 presents difficulties and will, I believe, continue to do so whilst existing rent restrictions and the high cost of repairs remain with us.

With regard to sub-standard houses which are incapable of improvement and repair, many of these are occupied by families who, in the face of waiting lists composed of people in lodgings and those sharing accommodation with relations, stand little chance of relief from their insanitary homes. I feel that with the promise of increased numbers of Council houses a limited amount of clearance under section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, might now be undertaken.

I wish to express my appreciation for your interest and support during the year. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance given by the late Dr. Kalra as Medical Officer of Health, and the co-operation of my own staff and those of other departments.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. BAYLEY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The public supply was obtained from the Council's deep wells at the Notley Road Waterworks and the Bocking Waterworks.

The water was chlorinated before passing into the service mains.

The public supply is not liable to have a plumbo solvent action.

The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination during the year was as follows :

	Raw Water	Water in Supply	Total
Notley Road Waterworks ..	3	8	11
Bocking Waterworks ..	1	4	5

With two exceptions these samples were reported upon as being entirely satisfactory. A sample of Braintree water in supply, taken following a complaint, was unsatisfactory in that it contained *B. coli* of faecal type in appreciable numbers. Chemically the water was satisfactory except for a slight bituminous odour. Steps were immediately taken to increase the chlorine dose and investigations as to the origin of the contamination made. Several samples, both in supply and untreated, were taken at short intervals following the original contamination sample and all proved to be of a high standard of bacterial purity.

The cause of this unsatisfactory sample was not definitely traced, but it coincided with the renewal of the rising main at one of the Braintree wells.

In July several complaints of taste, odour and discolouration were received from consumers on the Bocking supply.

The Counties Public Health Laboratory reported an appreciable amount of iron in the water which, under conditions of comparative stagnation produced traces of sulphuretted hydrogen. The laboratory advised remedial measures which proved effective, although complaints regarding discolouration were received from time to time up to the end of September.

Samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and the result of two samples are given as follows :

Sample from Notley Road Waterworks, 15.1.52

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate and its content of mineral and saline constituents although high is not considered excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes, apart from the disadvantage of the high content of fluorine.

Sample from Bocking Waterworks, 29.1.52

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, although showing slight opalescence associated mainly with the trace of iron which is present. The water is free from other metals and is neutral in reaction. It is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Water Consumption in the District

The Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer has kindly supplied the following information regarding the amount of water pumped during 1952 :

					Gallons
Notley Road Waterworks	..	..	..	..	155,298,000
Bocking Waterworks	..	..	..	..	60,804,000
Total					216,102,000

The supply was adequate for the present needs of the District, and represents an overall consumption of 33.68 gallons per head per day.

At present it is estimated that 17,355 persons who occupy 5,549 houses are served by public mains.

Of these approximately 124 houses with an estimated population of 387 are served by fifty-eight standpipes, fifty-one of which are situated in the open. There are also a considerable number of houses served by the public mains, whose only supply is a tap situated in a washhouse entered from the yard.

There are 53 houses with private supplies, only 38 of these being piped inside.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

New sewers were constructed on the Church Lane Estate in preparation for new Council houses. The main sewer in Challis Lane was extended.

In two instances, work was carried out to remedy defective public sewers and the cost charged to the owners of the premises concerned under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936. In one of these cases the drainage of eight houses had to be completely renewed.

Braintree Sewage Disposal Works

It was not possible to commence the proposed improvements to these works during 1952, and the three samples taken showed an unsatisfactory effluent.

Bocking Sewage Disposal Works

Two samples of effluent for analysis were taken by the Essex County Council; both were unsatisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of household refuse continued throughout the year in all parts of the District. This service is under the control of the Surveyor.

The tip at Rifle Hill was again used for the disposal of refuse.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

(1) Number and Nature of Inspections

During the year 1952 the following inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to the premises detailed :

Nature of Inspections	Primary Inspections	Revisits	Total Visits
Housing—Housing Act	17	50	67
Housing—Public Health Act	49	279	328
Other Visits—Housing Act	8	4	12
Other Visits—Public Health Act	485	477	962
Infectious Diseases	19	7	26
Water Supply and Sampling	45	39	84
Dairies and Milk Distributors	15	3	18
Milk Sampling	18	1	19
Food Preparing Premises including Bakchouses	132	67	199
Food Byelaws	33	1	34
Ice Cream Premises	22	5	27
Ice Cream Sampling	27	—	27
Meat and Food Inspection :			
(a) Slaughterhouses	947	65	1012
(b) Shops	123	4	127
(c) Depot	41	—	41
(d) Markets	119	—	119
Factories Act (Power)	26	13	39
Factories Act (Non-Power)	12	4	16
Factories Act (Building Sites)	13	7	20
Shops Act	15	12	27
Drainage	64	129	193
Overcrowding	13	—	13
Common Lodging House	2	—	2
Moveable and Temporary Dwellings	17	46	63
Vermín Infestations and Pest Control	25	7	32
Rat Infestations	36	35	71
Rivers Pollution	6	101	107
Knackers Yard	20	—	20
Swimming Baths and Sampling	22	—	22
Interviews with Owners/Builders, etc.	66	2	68
Miscellaneous	137	1	138
	<hr/> 2574	<hr/> 1359	<hr/> 3933

(2) Notices Served, etc.

Number of Informal Notices served	164
Number of Informal Notices complied with	154
Number of Statutory Notices served	68
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	61

(3) Sanitary Defects and Nuisances Found

(a) Housing

Defective roofs, rainwater, pipes, etc.	..	..	..	..	33
Other external defects .. ..	..	..	..	..	18
Damp walls .. ..	..	..	..	..	12
Internal defects .. ..	..	..	..	..	19
Defective yard paving .. ..	..	..	..	..	2

(b) General

Defective W.C.'s W.C. and structures	..	..	..	..	23
Houses with defective dustbins	..	..	..	..	105
Verm-in-fested houses .. ..	..	..	..	..	1
Polluted streams .. ..	..	..	..	..	1
Contraventions of Factories Act	..	..	..	..	7
Contraventions of Shops Act	..	..	..	..	2
Defects, etc., in food premises	..	..	..	..	6
Other nuisances .. ..	..	..	..	..	1

(c) Drainage

Choked drains and W.C.'s	..	..	..	..	44
Defective drains .. ..	..	..	..	..	10

(4) Nuisances Abated and Work Done

(a) Housing

Roofs, rainwater, pipes, etc., repaired	..	..	..	..	28
Other external repairs .. ..	..	..	..	..	25
Dampness in walls remedied ..	..	..	..	..	15
Internal repairs .. ..	..	..	..	..	26
Yard paving repaired .. ..	..	..	..	..	3
Sinks renewed .. ..	..	..	..	..	1

(b) General

W.C.'s and structures repaired	..	..	..	..	24
Defective dustbins renewed ..	..	..	..	..	105
Verm-in-fested houses cleansed	..	..	..	..	2
Pollution of streams remedied	..	..	..	..	3
Other nuisances abated .. ..	..	..	..	..	1
Contraventions of Factories Act remedied	..	..	..	..	8
Defects, etc., in food premises remedied	..	..	..	..	4
Treatment for insect pests .. ..	..	..	..	..	5
Disinfection of property following infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	6
Disinfection of bedding following infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	1

(c) Drainage

Choked drains and W.C.'s cleansed	..	..	..	..	44
Defective drains repaired .. ..	..	..	..	..	9
New drains tested and passed ..	..	..	..	..	3
Old drains tested .. ..	..	..	..	..	2

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

I. INSPECTION for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number of			
	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	19	16	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	87	39	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	12	20	4	—
Total	118	75	8	—

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found :

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Remedied	Found	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	7	7	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8	8	—	2	—

There are two Outworkers in the District; both are engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Shops Act, 1950

Twenty-seven visits were made under Section 38 of this Act.

In two instances, heating was found to be insufficient and notices were served upon the occupiers concerned.

Moveable Dwellings

Two licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were operative during the year.

Fifteen licences were granted in respect of single caravans for specified periods.

Swimming Baths

Two open-air swimming pools, one of which is owned and operated by the Council, were in use during the year. Samples of water were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination regularly throughout the season. Field tests for available chlorine were also carried out and the filtration plants inspected in order to control the quality of the water in the pools.

All the samples taken were satisfactory and both pools were well maintained throughout the season.

Insect Pests

One private dwelling house infested with bed bugs was sprayed during the year and one council house treated for fleas.

To assist the occupiers of a bakehouse in the district, spraying to eradicate cockroaches and firebrats was carried out successfully.

Assistance was also given to the Ministry of Food by the periodic spraying of slaughterhouse cooling rooms to control flies.

Steam Disinfector

The use of the steam disinfector at the former Isolation Hospital, Cressing Road, was continued during the year.

The plant was in operation for 90 charges, 24 for disinfection following infectious diseases and 66 charges for the cleansing of bedding and clothing.

Some of this work was done for other local authorities and public and business undertakings.

Rodent Control

The services of a full-time Rodent Operator were again shared with neighbouring authorities. The Council continued the scheme for the maintenance of rodent control whereby a grant of 50 per cent. of approved net expenditure was made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Ten per cent. of the sewer manholes of both Braintree and Bocking sewers were test baited. Two lengths of sewer required treatment.

The work done during 1952 was as follows :

Number of properties inspected	290
Number of properties found to be infested and treated—	
Major	65
Minor	118
Mice	24
Number of " block " control schemes carried out	9

It is evident that the continuous work of control over the past few years is having its effect on the rodent population in the district. Many properties formerly housing major infestations are now known to be free or to carry only minor infestations for short periods.

More time and attention has been spent on the eradication of mice, and the use of " Warfarin " poison has proved to be very successful.

HOUSING

The Council completed a further 77 houses and 24 flats during the year and 27 houses were built by private enterprise.

The following tables give a summary of action taken in connection with the inspection of houses during 1952 :

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	66
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses, exclusive of those referred to under sub-section (2), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	54

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice :

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	46
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3. Action under Statutory Powers :

Housing Act, 1936 :

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(b) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notice :	
By Owners	0
By Local Authority in default	0

Public Health Act, 1936 :

(c) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
(d) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	18

4. (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ..	2
(b) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of undertakings given by owners in previous years under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	*2

* Includes 3 houses made into one.

Legal Proceedings

An appeal by an occupier of a dwelling house in the district against a notice to provide a dustbin under Section 75 (1) of the Public Health Act, 1936, was heard by the local magistrates.

The appeal was dismissed, with costs against the appellant.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The Council are responsible for the registration of milk distributors and dairies other than dairy farms and is the licensing authority in respect of dealers and supplementary licences for Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Eight distributors and three dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 :

Dealers Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	..	..	5
Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	..	..	4
Dealers Licence for Pasteurised Milk	..	..	..	4
Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk	..	..	..	2

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

The following table shows the results of samples of milk submitted for the Methylene Blue Test, and in the case of Pasteurised Milk, the Phosphatase Test.

Class of Milk	Number Sampled	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Satisfactory	Un- satisfactory	Satisfactory	Un- satisfactory
T.T.	4	4	—	—	—
Ungraded	1	1	—	—	—
Pasteurised	10	8*	—	10	—
T.T. Pasteurised	3	3	—	3	—

* Two samples of pasteurised milk were not subjected to the methylene bl test owing to unfavourable shade temperatures.

Ice Cream

During the year three local manufacturers of ice cream and forty-eight vendors were retailing from shops in the Urban District. All were registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. In addition, vendors registered elsewhere in the County of Essex operated in the District.

Frequent inspections of manufacturers' premises were made and periodic inspections of vendors' premises and vendors' vehicles were carried out.

Twenty-seven samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :

<i>Manufactured in District</i>	<i>Manufactured Outside District</i>
Fourteen in Provisional Grade I	Two in Provisional Grade I
Three in Provisional Grade II	Three in Provisional Grade II
Four in Provisional Grade III	Nil in Provisional Grade III
One in Provisional Grade IV	Nil in Provisional Grade IV

Meat

The Ministry of Food have continued to use two slaughterhouses in this Urban District. Meat inspection is carried out by your Inspectors and all animals slaughtered during the year were examined by them.

There is no organised system of ante-mortem inspection in the case of animals sent to the slaughterhouses through collecting and grading centres and no proper facilities exist for this purpose, but the majority of such animals are seen by the meat inspectors, either in the market or in the lairage at the slaughterhouses, and any necessary action in respect of market rejects or animals showing signs of illness is taken.

The following sets out the particulars of animals slaughtered and of inspections and condemnations during the year :

				Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	..	..	..	1589	653	1444	3319	1639
Number Inspected	..	..	..	1589	653	1444	3319	1639
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :								
Whole carcasses condemned	..		—		3	4	5	14
Weight in pounds condemned	..		—		1312	274	360	1397
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	..			341	138	4	64	292
Weight in pounds condemned	..			3769	2764	11	254	2078
Percentage affected	..	..		21.46	21.59	0.55	2.14	18.68
Tuberculosis only :								
Whole carcasses condemned	..			4	5	1	—	2
Weight in pounds condemned	..			2243	2739	33	—	356
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	..			108	118	1	—	92
Weight in pounds condemned	..			3887	3966	15	—	1776
Percentage affected	..	..		7.00	18.84	0.14	—	5.73

Comparison with the condemnation figures for the years 1947 to 1952 show a continued decline in the percentage of cows and other beef animals found to be affected with tuberculosis, for example in 1947, 40.59 per cent. of cows and 13.68 of cattle other than cows were affected with varying degrees of the disease, compared with the figures of 18.84 per cent. and 7.00 per cent. respectively, for the year 1952.

The carcasses of twenty-two beasts were sent for refrigeration treatment after detection of cysticercus bovis lesions in the organs.

Thirty-one pigs killed under private licence were inspected at the slaughterhouses.

In addition to the above, the following meat, including home killed and imported meat, was inspected and condemned at butchers' shops or the wholesale Meat Depot :

							Shops lb.	Depot lb.
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	277	—
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	—
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	6
							<hr/> 334 lb.	<hr/> 6 lb.

In all cases the unsound meat which was condemned was salvaged for use for trade purposes other than for human consumption.

Horseflesh

Your inspectors carried out the inspection of horseflesh slaughtered for sale for human consumption in the Urban District, all of which was sold outside the Council's area.

Particulars of animals slaughtered and condemnations are as follows :

Number of horses slaughtered	..	..	..	..	449
Number of horses inspected	..	..	..	..	374
Weight of whole carcasses (two condemned)	..	..	..	..	1358 lb.
Weight of part carcasses condemned	..	..	..	..	36 lb.
Weight of offal condemned	..	..	..	..	646 lb.

Fourteen goats slaughtered for human consumption were also inspected.

Other Foods

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the District, the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :

	lb.		lb.
Haricot Beans	56	Tinned Milk	100
Tinned Beans	51	Tinned Peas	47
Biscuits	89	Pickles	37
Chitterlings	125	Poultry	14
Tinned Fish	27	Preserves	23
Wet Fish	116	Sausages	68
Tinned Fruit	547	Tinned Soup	26
Tinned Ham	426	Tripe	20
Tinned Meats	504	Tinned Vegetables	141
		Miscellaneous	167
Total	2584 lb.		

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

One hundred and ninety-nine visits were made to premises engaged in the preparation and handling of food, exclusive of visits made to ice cream establishments and dairies.

As a result of informal action and interviews (in some of the latter it was necessary to bring out the threat of court action) the following works were carried out :

Sanitary accommodation to food preparing premises provided.

Cleansing and redecoration of walls and ceilings in food preparation rooms at two cafes.

Contraventions of Section 13(c) relating to repair of windows remedied at one cafe.

The plans of all new food preparing premises as submitted to the Surveyor are inspected and amendments requested to keep premises up to the standards recommended by the Catering Trade Working Party.

Following a complaint of the finding of a cockroach in a loaf of bread, the Council decided to send a warning letter to the offending baker, in view of the efforts being made by him to eradicate these pests.

During routine inspection at the poultry markets, a diseased fowl carcase exposed for sale was seized and subsequently surrendered. Warning letters were sent to the owners and auctioneers concerned.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The provisions of the above Act, relating to the sampling of food and drugs, are administered by the Weights and Measures Department of the Essex County Council. The Chief Inspector of that Department has kindly supplied the following information.

<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>No. Taken</i>
Beef Suet	1	Malted Milk	1
Cocoa	2	Maltola	1
Coffee	3	Milk	43
Desiccated Coconut	1	Pure Lard	1
Fish Paste	1	Strawberry Jam	1
Herrings in tomato sauce	1	Tea	3
Hot Chocolate	1	Tomato Juice	1

Twenty-three of the Milk samples were taken at Schools and Hospitals.

With the exception of five milk samples, all the above were found to be satisfactory.

The five milk samples were found to be deficient in milk fat, but "Appeal to Cow" samples taken showed the milk to be as given by the cows.